

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**  
Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/23/96

Loads: 1

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+000 to 1+000

Weather Conditions: foggy, winds SSW 15 kts, seas 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - na

Below Mid-Depth - na

Condition of all screening apparatus:

Excellent. Each of four cages (two per lander, fore and aft) are completely screened with 4 X 4 " steel mesh. Side-opening doors are available for discarding debris after inspection.

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Observers Doug Kinzey and Paula Olson boarded crewboat about 18:15 and arrived aboard *Wheeler* about 19:00. *Wheeler* completed one load today - started dredging at 20:50 and arrived at dumpsite at 22:15. Material is silty mud with small amounts of light clay. Light to moderate amounts of plastic, wood and metal trash, monofilament and braided nylon line requiring some hand removal from screening in two of the four cages. One juvenile blue crab was the only biological material retained by screening.

Two of the three dragarms, port and center, were used. The starboard dragarm has mechanical problems and remained on deck. Dragheads are equipped with newer apron-style turtle deflectors at leading edge.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/24/96

Loads: 1 - 4

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+<sup>000</sup> to 1+<sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: partly cloudy to clear, winds northerly 15 - 30 kts, seas 2 - 3'

Range of H2O Temperature - Surface: na      Below Mid-Depth (16 - 27'): 65 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Loads are numbered consecutively, beginning with #1, each day. Material remains silty mud with small amounts of clay and light amounts of plastic, wood and metal trash, nylon line. Biological materials in cages were several blue crabs and one 2 - 3' drum.

Continue using only two of three dragarms due to mechanical problems with the starboard dragarm.

Water temperatures are taken from the ship's water intake valve at the bottom of the vessel at the bow. Depth is ship's draft at time of reading.

After load #4, at about 14:15, problems with the starboard ship engine caused the *Wheeler* to return to anchorage for repairs.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i> (bottlenose dolphins)	Multiple	6	Just south of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**  
Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/25/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: na

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - na

Below Mid-Depth - na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredge remained anchored throughout the day. Engine part was sent ashore to be repaired; ship is waiting for the part to be returned before resuming operations. Observers remain aboard.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/26/96

Loads: 1

Area(s) Worked: 0+000 to 9+000

Weather Conditions: partly cloudy; NW wind 20 knots; seas 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - na

Below Mid-Depth (26') - 65° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Ship resumed dredging at 18:23 with all three dragarms. Small amount of material retained in boxes, including a blue crab, mud, rocks, wood, and plastic debris. Following the first load, at 21:20, problems with the port dragarm electrical system required several hours of repair that halted dredging until early AM on the 27th.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/27/96

Loads: 1 - 9

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear; wind northerly 25 knots dropping to 10 - 15 knots; seas 2 - 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - 60° F

Below Mid-Depth (15 - 27') - 65° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material continues to be silty mud. Biological specimens retained included a 3' black drum, 10 blue crabs, knobby whelk and other shells, and wood. Other items found in the boxes were nets, monofilament, line, trash, a crab pot, and fossilized bone or wood. Fishing net became tangled in the dragheads during several loads. The port dragarm was not used for loads 2 through 6.

Surface water temperature is taken with a water thermometer lowered over the deck rail or into the center well for the center dragarm. Below mid-depth temperatures continue to be obtained from the ship's intake reading.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	4 - 6	S of W jetty, feeding; mother/calf pair present

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/28/96

Loads: 1 - 11

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear to partly cloudy; wind NE 10 - 20 knots; seas 2 - 4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - 52° to 55° F      Below Mid-Depth - 63° to 65° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is silty mud with some clay. Biological specimens retained included 2 stone crabs, ~5 blue crabs, oyster shells, and wood. Other items found in the boxes were net, monofilament, plastic trash, and rocks. Following load #7, a 15' piece of fishing net entangled with floats, line and hose had to be cut free from the starboard draghead.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	5	8	Just S of E jetty
<i>T. truncatus</i>	4	3	.5 to .75 mile S of jetties
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	Bowriding passing vessel

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**  
Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 1/23/96 - 1/28/96

Loads: total of 26 loads (numbered  
consecutively within each day)

Range of Water Temperature: Surface - 11° to 15° C

Below Mid-Depth - 17° to 18° C

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

**Comments:**

Observers board the *Wheeler* on 1/23; the ship begins dredging that evening. All four landers are completely screened with 4 X 4" steel mesh, with a large mesh box at the end of each lander. Screening apparatus is in excellent condition.

Dredged material is silty mud with small amounts of clay. The amount of material found in the boxes was relatively light. Most of the material retained by the screening was trash, fishing net, line, monofilament, and woody debris. Biological specimens included one black drum and one unidentified drum (poor condition), ~20 blue crabs, 2 stone crabs, oyster shells, whelk shells, shell fragments, and wood.

Surface water temperature is obtained from a small thermometer cast by line over the side of the ship. Mid-depth water temperature is obtained from the ship's intake reading.

See the dailies for detailed summaries.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i> (bottlenose dolphins)	13 +	22 - 24	Most of these animals appear to be (temporarily) resident just south of the jetties

Observers On Duty: Doug Kinzey, Paula Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/29/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - na

Below Mid-Depth - na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

During early AM, dredge transits from Sabine Pass to the USACE dock in Galveston.  
*Wheeler* arrives at Galveston dock at 08:00 to take on supplies and change crews. No dredging, observers on standby.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/30/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - na

Below Mid-Depth - na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredge at USACE dock in Galveston. Scheduled afternoon departure delayed until AM on 1/31 due to late arrival of fuel. Observers on board.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 1/31/96

Loads: 1 - 3

Area(s) Worked: Stations 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast; NE winds 10 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - 54° F

Below Mid-Depth - 65° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* departs Galveston USACE dock at 08:00; starts digging in Sabine Pass at 17:43.

Material continues to be light mud with plastic and metal trash, fishing line, rope, and cement weights retained against screening. Biological materials include 5 blue crabs, 2 spider crabs, and one 3'+ black drum. First load is two cuts, next two loads are one cut each.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/1/96

Loads: 1 - 7

Area(s) Worked: Stations 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast to light fog; NE winds building 10-30 knots; seas 1 - 5'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface - 53° F

Below Mid-Depth - 64° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is light mud and silt. Abundant plastic, cement, wood, and metal trash, including nylon fishing gear and crab pot mesh and line. Biological material includes 9 blue crabs, 3 spider crabs, whelk shells and woody debris.

Fog halted dredging operations from about 09:20 to 20:20.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	2 - 4	just south of east jetty

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/2/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: Stations 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: drizzle, fog and overcast; northerly winds 20-40 knots; seas 1 - 5'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 48 - 51 ° F      Below Mid-Depth: 58 - 64 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is light mud and silt with abundant plastic, cement, wood, and metal debris, including old clothes and fishing gear. Biological material includes 6 blue crabs, 2 spider crabs, the head region of a black drum, a decomposing unidentified bird, whelk and oyster shells.

Load #7 contained 2' of packed clay in forward boxes, requiring bridge to pump additional clean water through landers to clear. Otherwise loads in boxes have been light.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	7	20	probably same 5-6 dolphins

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/03/96

Loads: 1 - 7

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast then clearing; wind northerly 25 - 30 knots; seas 4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature - Surface: 48 - 49° F

Below Mid-Depth: 59 - 62°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Biological specimens retained in the screening included 3 spider crabs, 5 blue crabs, an unidentified fish, an unidentified bird (decomposed), wood, and vegetation. Mud, trash, net, line, and monofilament were also found in the boxes. Loads remain relatively light.

Problems with the port engine and a fouled anchor chain interrupted dredging activity from noon to midnight.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1 - 2	in channel at end of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/04/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: Stations 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear, NW winds 10-20 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 47 - 50 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 58 - 59 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is light mud and silt with wood, plastic, and metal trash. Biological material includes blue crabs, spider crabs, whelk and oyster shells, algae, a mantis shrimp and an unidentified fish (no head).

Load #3 contained a very old (anaerobically blackened) 13 cm long bone section from a turtle plastron. It was too old to be attributed to current dredging.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	4	7	probably same 5-6 dolphins

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 1/29/96 - 2/4/96

Loads: total of 41

Range of Water Temperature: Surface - 8° to 12° C

Below Mid-Depth - 14° to 18° C

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

#### Comments:

*Wheeler* arrived at Galveston USACE dock on 1/29/96 to change crews and take on fuel and supplies. The dredge departed on 1/31/96 at 08:00; dredging operations at Sabine Pass began at 17:43. Material is silty mud with small amounts of clay. Plastic bags and containers, metal debris, fishing net and line, crab pots and other miscellaneous garbage collected by screening require hand removal by observers for most loads. One load, #7 on 2/2/96, contained about two feet of packed clay in forward boxes that required pumping clean water through the landers to clear.

Biological materials include blue and spider crabs, two black drum and two unidentified fish, whelk and oyster shells, mantis shrimp, algae, two unidentified decomposing birds, and woody debris. Load #3 on 2/4/96 contained a very old (anaerobically blackened) piece of bone from a turtle plastron, too old to be associated with current dredging activity.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	13	30 - 33	Probably same 5-6 dolphins, usually just outside jetty mouth upwind of outflow

Observers On Duty: Paula Olson, Doug Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/5/96

Loads: 1 - 11

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear then cloudy; wind NW 15-20 kts. changing to E 5-10 kts.; seas 3 to 1'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 47 - 48° F

Below Mid-Depth: 52 - 60° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

An abundant amount of trash is retained in the boxes, along with fishing gear, line, and monofilament. Biological specimens retained include blue crabs, spider crabs, mantis shrimp, whelk and oyster shells, and vegetative debris.

Following load #4, the forward boxes contained 2' of clay and mud which required a flushing of clean water through the landers before inspection.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	2 - 3	at end of east jetty

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/6/96

Loads: 1 - 13

Area(s) Worked: 0+ 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: cloudy; wind E/SE 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 47 - 48° F

Below Mid-Depth: 58 - 60° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Heavy amounts of trash, clothing, plastic, and fishing line are the primary items found in the boxes. Biological specimens retained by the screening include blue crabs, spider crabs, whelk shells, oyster shells, a giant eastern murex shell, an unidentified 12" fish, and vegetative debris. Also found were ~6 large quahog-type bivalve shells that have not appeared before. Following load #10, heavy amounts of mud and clay needed to be flushed from the forward boxes before the boxes could be inspected.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	.25 mile south of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/7/96

Loads: 1 - 13

Area(s) Worked: 0+ 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: cloudy; winds E/SE 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 47 - 49 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 58 - 62 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Increasing quantities of mud in boxes, 6" to 1' covering bottom screening, requires brief rinse with clear water through lander after dredging so observers can remove accumulated plastics and other debris from screens. Trash is mainly plastic bags, jugs, and sheeting; onion bags; cement weights; old clothes and rubber gloves; crab pots; and monofilament and braided nylon line and net.

Biological materials include blue and spider crabs, oyster and whelk shells, wood, vegetation, 1 black drum, 1 unidentified catfish, and 1 unidentified fish.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	7	south of east jetty

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/8/96

Loads: 1 - 14

Area(s) Worked: 0+<sup>000</sup> to 9 +<sup>000</sup>; 9 +<sup>000</sup> to 18 +<sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: cloudy; winds S/SE 5 - 20 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 49 - 55 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 61 - 63 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Light mud in cages continues to require brief rinse with clear water through lander after dredging so observers can remove accumulated plastics, fishing gear and other debris from screens.

Biological material includes blue and spider crabs, moon snails, a giant eastern murex snail, oyster shells, bird bones, algae and a hardhead catfish.

Wheeler moves further down channel from jetties to dredge stations 9 +<sup>000</sup> to 18 +<sup>000</sup> beginning with load # 6. Material remains similar to previous location.

Water temperatures are warming, generally low fifties at surface and low sixties below mid-depth.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	2	in channel between bouys 33 and 34

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/9/96

Loads: 1 - 4

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: cloudy with increasing fog; wind south 5 - 10 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 52° F

Below Mid-Depth: 62° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Trash is the primary item retained in the screening. Also found in the boxes are ~25 blue and spider crabs, and oyster shells. Fog halted dredging operations in the morning following load #4. Ship remained at anchor in the fog for the remainder of the day.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/10/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: na

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredge remained at anchor in thick fog throughout the day.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/11/96

Loads: 1 - 8

Area(s) Worked: 2+ 000 to 9 + 000

Weather Conditions: foggy to clear; NW winds 10-15 kts; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 52 - 55 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 64 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* at anchor in fog from midnight to 09:20 when dredging begins on green side of channel. Material is silty clay. Moderate amounts of plastic debris and other trash collecting on screens. Biological materials include blue and spider crabs, oyster and whelk shells, one mantis shrimp, and one old dolphin vertebrae.

*Wheeler* heads for Galveston dock to pick up supplies and change crews after dumping last load at 23:38.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	~20	Two different groups; in the channel & just outside the jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 2/5/96 - 2/11/96

Loads: total of 63

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 8 to 12 ° C

Below Mid-Depth: 11 to 17 ° C

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000; 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? **No**

#### Comments:

The *Wheeler* began the week digging between stations 0 + 000 and 9 + 000 red side, then on 2/9 moved out the channel to stations 9+ 000 through 18+ 000 red side. On 2/11 the dredge moved back to 2 + 000 through 9 + 000 and started digging on the green side, where it finished the week. Material continues to be mainly silty mud, with increasing amounts of clay. Mud 6" to 2' deep requires flushing landers with clean water before dumping so observers can inspect cages and clean screening.

Most loads require hand removal of abundant plastic and metal trash, fishing debris, clothing, wood and rocks. Biological materials include blue and spider crabs, whelk and oyster shells, unidentified bivalves, giant eastern murex snails, mantis shrimp, bird bones, 1 hardhead and 1 unidentified catfish, 1 black drum, 1 unidentified fish, algae, and 1 (old) dolphin vertebrae.

Water temperatures increased throughout the week.

Heavy fog halted dredging operations following load # 4 on the morning of 2/9 until the morning of 2/11.

Following load #8 on 2/11, the *Wheeler* headed for Galveston to pick up supplies and change crews.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	8	32	Appeared to be one group of 3 - 5 dolphins until 2/11, when two groups totaling about 20 animals were seen

Observers On Duty: Doug Kinzey, Paula Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/12/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: na

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* transited to USACE dock in Galveston, arriving at approximately 07:00.

Observers on stand-by as dredge took on supplies, fuel, and changed crews.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/13/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: na

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* departed USACE dock in Galveston at 20:00 and began transit to Sabine Pass.

Observers on board.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/14/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 2 + 000

Weather Conditions: hazy to clear; SW to NW winds 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 54 - 56 ° F      Below Mid-Depth: 63 - 64 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material continues to be silty mud. Primarily plastic and metal trash in boxes - not much mud. Also old clothing, a tire, blue and spider crabs, mantis shrimp, oyster shells and unidentified bivalves, old bone, and vegetative debris.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	4 - 5	off both jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/15/96

Loads: 1 - 8

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 2 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear; wind westerly, 15 increasing to 30 knots; seas 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 55 - 56° F

Below Mid-Depth: 66 - 67° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

The primary items found in the screening continues to be trash, plastic, and fishing gear. Biological specimens include blue crabs, spider crabs, old bones, oyster shells, whelk shells, woody debris, and vegetation. Fog halted dredging operations from approximately 04:00 until noon.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	4	at end of W jetty & in channel .75 mile out

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/16/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 2 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear; NW winds 15 - 35 knots; seas 1 - 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 54° F

Below Mid-Depth: 65 - 66° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Plastic, metal, wood, and vegetative debris heavy at times, especially in aft boxes.

Forward boxes generally accumulate less material. Light clay some loads. Also, abundant blue and spider crabs, some oyster and whelk shells, fish bones, and one posterior half of a black drum.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	6	2 - 4 animals total; W of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/17/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 2 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear to overcast; variable winds 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 54 - 55 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 65 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Occasionally small amounts of mud/clayballs in boxes, but generally plastics and other trash dominate. Cement blocks are common. Biological materials include blue and spider crabs, oyster, whelk and bivalve shells, wood, and vegetation.

Hydraulic problems stopped dredging between 00:48 and 03:58.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	3	6	bowriding other vessels for two of the sightings

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/18/96

Loads: 1 - 14

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 2 + 000

Weather Conditions: cloudy; southerly winds 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 54 - 56 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 65 - 67 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Small amounts of mud, variable amounts of trash in screening of boxes. Very abundant blue and lesser numbers of spider crabs, some oyster and whelk shells, a giant eastern murex shell, a moon snail, and an unidentified eel were also removed from screening. Digging on red side most of the day.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	2	south of west jetty

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 2/12/96 - 2/18/96

Loads: total of 58

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 12 - 13° C

Below Mid-Depth: 17 - 19° C

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 2 + <sup>000</sup>

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No

#### Comments:

Dredged material is silty mud with some clay. Occasionally mud or small clayballs accumulate in the boxes. Trash, in the form of plastics, metal debris, clothing, and old fishing gear, is abundant at times and requires hand removal by observers after each load. Biological specimens retained by the screening this week include blue crabs, spider crabs, mantis shrimp, a black drum, an unidentified eel, a moon snail, oyster shells, whelk shells, bivalve shells, a giant eastern murex shell, old bones, wood, and vegetation.

On 2/12 and 2/13, *Wheeler* at the USACE dock in Galveston taking on supplies and changing crews. *Wheeler* departed Galveston on 2/13 at 20:00 and resumed dredging in Sabine Pass on 2/14 at 03:08.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i> (bottlenose dolphins)	9	22 - 23	continuing to be observed in same area near end of jetties

Observers On Duty: Paula Olson, Doug Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/19/96

Loads: 1 - 13

Area(s) Worked: 0 + 000 to 9 + 000; 1 + 200 to 7 + 800

Weather Conditions: cloudy then hazy; wind southerly 10 to 35 knots; seas 2 - 5'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56° F

Below Mid-Depth: 66 - 67° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredge digging zig-zag pattern back and forth across channel most of the day. Heavy amounts of debris and trash retained in the screening. Some loads left 6" of mud or small clayballs. Biological specimens retained included abundant oyster shells, blue crabs, spider crabs, whelk shells, giant eastern murex shells, vegetation, and wood.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	in channel between end of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/20/96

Loads: 1 - 6

Area(s) Worked: 1 + 200 to 7 + 800

Weather Conditions: hazy to foggy; SW winds 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 55 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 66 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Loads in boxes are free of mud with moderate amounts of plastic and other trash most loads. Blue and spider crabs are common, along with vegetation and occasional oyster shells.

Dredging activity stopped after dumping load #6 at about 09:00 due to heavy fog.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/21/96

Loads: 1 - 4

Area(s) Worked: 7 + 800 to 1 + 200

Weather Conditions: foggy to hazy; SW winds 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 69 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* at anchor in fog until 15:45. Dredged material is silty mud with little accumulation in boxes. Plastics and other trash require hand removal from screens every load. Blue crabs, oyster shells, a fish skull, a knobby whelk, vegetative and woody debris were also removed from screening.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	in channel at end of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/22/96

Loads: 1 - 7

Area(s) Worked: 7 + 800 to 1 + 200

Weather Conditions: hazy to foggy; SW winds 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 57 - 58 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 69 - 72 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is primarily silty mud, with occasional clayballs. Plastics, wood, metal debris and other trash continue to require hand removal from screens. Spider crabs, blue crabs, old bone, decomposed fish, oyster shells, knobby whelks, and vegetation are also present

Starting with load #5, mechanical problems prevented use of port and starboard dragarms. Dredged using only center dragarm.

*Wheeler* anchored in fog this morning from 01:50 to 13:30.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	5	south of jetties, both sightings approached dredge

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/23/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: stations 1 + 200 to 7 + 800

Weather Conditions: overcast with haze & increasing fog; wind southerly 5 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 58 - 59° F

Below Mid-Depth: 67 - 72° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is silty mud with some clay. Small clayballs clogged the screens of the forward boxes following loads #9 and #12 which the observers removed by hand. Primary items found in the boxes were trash (plastic, clothing, fishing gear) and metal debris. Biological specimens retained in the screening included blue crabs, spider crabs, a coral crab (a Caribbean species uncommon in this area), oyster shells, old fish bones, and vegetation.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	2	in channel just S of jetties

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/24/96

Loads: 1 - 7

Area(s) Worked: 1 + 200 to 7 + 800

Weather Conditions: fog - clear - fog; wind northerly then E, 10 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 61° F

Below Mid-Depth: 73° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is silty mud with some clay. 6" - 10" clayballs found in boxes following loads #1, #3, and #6; observers removed by hand. Other items retained by (and removed from) the screening included trash, fishing gear, blue crabs, spider crabs, whelk shells, and oyster shells. Fog halted dredging from midnight to 0530, and from 2100 until 2/25.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	2	2	observed in same location just S of E jetty

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/25/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* anchored in fog all day, no dredging. At 16:00 ship gets underway to Galveston for crew change and to take on supplies.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 2/19/96 - 2/25/96

Loads: total of 49

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 12 - 16° C

Below Mid-Depth: 18 - 22° C

Area(s) Worked: stations 0 + <sup>000</sup> to 9 + <sup>000</sup> (mainly 1 + <sup>200</sup> to 7 + <sup>800</sup>)

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

#### Comments:

Dredged material is silty mud with some clay; sometimes clay accumulates in the boxes. Abundant plastic trash, clothing, monofilament fishing line, nylon nets, crab pots, and occasional metal and wood debris are usually present in the screening and require hand removal. Biological specimens this week include many blue crabs with lesser numbers of spider crabs, a coral crab, whelks, oyster shells, giant eastern murex shells, old decomposing fish and bones, and vegetation. Water temperature warming up; surface temperature over 15° C.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	7	11	usually near mouth of jetties

Observers On Duty: Paula Olson, Doug Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Galveston Channel  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/26/96

Loads: 1

Area(s) Worked: Galveston inner harbor channel, buoy 12

Weather Conditions: increasing fog, no wind, seas < 1'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 62 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Emergency dredging in Galveston Channel to deepen recent 38' shoal. Dredged numerous cuts between 01:00 and 02:59 to get one load. Material is light sand and silt with very little accumulation in boxes. Small amount of plastic, rubber pieces, one cannonball jellyfish retained by screening.

*Wheeler* tied up at Galveston dock at approximately 07:00. Observers on standby for remainder of day.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Galveston Channel  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/27/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: na

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* at Galveston dock all day changing crews, taking on supplies, and waiting for fog to clear in the evening. Observers on standby all day, aboard dredge at 16:00.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Galveston Channel  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/28/96

Loads: 1

Area(s) Worked: Galveston inner harbor channel, stations 14 + 250 to 14 + 125

Weather Conditions: overcast, N wind 25 kts, seas 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 65 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 76 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* departed Galveston dock at 08:15 to continue the emergency dredging of Galveston Channel begun on 2/26. Material is light sand and silt with a few clayballs retained in boxes. A few pieces of plastic debris, fish bone, and a skate were also retained. This load consisted of 12 cuts. A second load started today will be completed on 12/29.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**  
Dredge *Wheeler* : Galveston Channel & Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 2/29/96

Loads: 1 - 5

Area(s) Worked: Galveston Inner Bar Channel, stations 16 + <sup>800</sup> to 16 + <sup>500</sup>  
Sabine Pass Channel, stations 2 + <sup>000</sup> to 6 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: overcast or rain; wind northerly 20 - 35 knots; seas 2 - 4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: Galveston 61° F      Below Mid-Depth: Galveston 74° F  
Sabine Pass na      Sabine Pass 71° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

The emergency dredging in Galveston Channel begun was completed with today's loads #1 through #3. Each load required several hours of dredging and numerous cuts. Dredged material was sand with some clay. Clayballs were retained in the screening following loads #1 and #2. One skate was the only biological specimen found in the boxes. Other items found in the boxes included rocks, cement blocks, line, and trash.

Following load #3, the *Wheeler* transited from Galveston to Sabine Pass. Loads #4 and #5 were dug in the Sabine Pass Channel, beginning at 21:10. Dredged material was silty mud. Biological specimens retained in the screening included a blue crab, a decomposing black drum, and oyster shells.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	in Galveston channel, on way to dump site

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/1/96

Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: stations 2 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast, N wind 25 kts, seas 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56-61 ° F      Below Mid-Depth: 65-66 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is silty mud and clay. After load #3, with mud/clay in all 4 boxes, up to about 1' deep in port forward, observer requested brief clear water rinse at end of loads to wash mud from boxes. Remaining loads were free of mud, with mainly plastic and lesser amounts of metal and cloth trash in screening. Also removed blue crabs, spider crabs, mantis shrimp, fish skulls, wood, vegetation, and one decomposing black drum from screens.

*Wheeler* moved out the channel to begin dredging new area from stations 9 + 000 to 18 + 000 after load #8. Also at this time, the dredge started using only the center dragarm due to mechanical problems with port and starboard.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/2/96

Loads: 1 - 10

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear; NW wind 5 - 15 knots; seas < 1'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56 - 57° F

Below Mid-Depth: 69° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is silty mud with some clay. Heavy amounts of trash and discarded fishing gear are found in the boxes following every load, which the observers remove by hand. Biological specimens retained in the boxes include blue crabs, spider crabs, whelk egg cases, 2 black drums, algae, and vegetation.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/3/96

Loads: 1 - 13

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: cloudy to clear, winds shifting NW to SE <5 to 15 kts, seas 0-1'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56-61 ° F      Below Mid-Depth: 68-72 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Mainly plastic trash (sheets, jars, buckets, gloves, etc.), fishing gear, clothing and algae are retained by screens. Two loads contained clayballs as well, but these are generally not a problem since screens are being rinsed with clear water at the end of the loads. Also removed blue crabs, spider crabs, a whelk, whelk egg cases, two decomposing black drums, and two menhaden from screens.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**  
Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway & Galveston Channel  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 2/26/96 - 3/3/96

Loads: total of 42      (4 at Galveston, 38 at Sabine Pass)

Range of Water Temperature-

Surface: 16 - 18° C (Galveston)	Below Mid-Depth: 23 - 24° C (Galveston)
13 - 16° C (Sabine Pass)	18 - 22° C (Sabine Pass)

Area(s) Worked:      stations 16 + <sup>800</sup> to 16 + <sup>500</sup>; (Galveston Inner Bar Channel, near buoy 12)  
                                 stations 2 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup> (Sabine Pass)

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments:

*Wheeler* began emergency dredging of Galveston Channel in early morning of 2/26, having arrived from Sabine Pass the previous night. Dredged one load and then proceeded to Galveston dock in later morning to change crews and take on supplies. Departed dock on morning of 2/28 to finish emergency dredging. On 2/29 *Wheeler* transited back to Sabine Pass and resumed dredging there through remainder of the week.

Material in Galveston was sand with some clay and light amounts of trash (cement blocks, line, plastic) and rocks retained in screening. Fauna were scarce - one cannonball jelly, two skates and some fish bones.

Material in Sabine Pass is silty mud with generally light, but occasionally heavy, amounts of clay. Dragtenders are rinsing boxes with clean water from center-well following each load to remove mud and facilitate inspection. Blue crabs are common, along with occasional spider crabs, black drum, fish skulls, oyster shells, whelks, mantis shrimp, algae, and vegetation.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i> (Bottlenose dolphins)	1	1	in Galveston Channel, no bottlenose dolphins sighted at Sabine Pass this week

Observers On Duty: Doug Kinzey, Paula Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/4/96

Loads: 1 - 14

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast to partly cloudy, winds E to SE 5 to 20 kts, seas 1-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 59-60 ° F      Below Mid-Depth: 70-71 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Plastic trash and fishing debris continue to be the predominant materials retained in boxes. Occasionally heavy clayball accumulations require clear water rinse through landers after dredging on way to dump site. Blue and spider crabs, algae, and an Atlantic cutlassfish were removed from screening.

The bolt for the inboard hinge on the top latch door of the port foreward box has broken. The door is only held by the one remaining hinge, which is now taking all the strain when the door is opened and closed. Also, in the starboard foreward box the inside screen door for discarding trash has bent outward and no longer closes completely, leaving about a 4" gap down the side of the door after it is chained shut. These were brought to the attention of mates and boatswain and will be fixed at first opportunity.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/5/96

Loads: 1 - 11

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: overcast, then rain and fog; SE winds 5 to 20 kts, seas 2-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 60 - 61 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 71 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: good

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Increasing amount of clay requires lander rinsing after every load before inspection.  
Plastic, cloth, and metal trash continues to be moderate to heavy for most loads. Items appear to be mainly fishing debris (nets, monofilament line, bags, buckets, gloves, clothing, oil filters, etc.).  
Blue crabs were only fauna retained by screening.

Top door to forward port box and gap in side door to forward starboard box were both repaired this morning by load #7 (about 10:00). Screening is now completely intact.

Fog halted dredging after load #11 at 16:30 for remainder of day.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/6/96

Loads: 1

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast, SE wind < 5 kts, seas 1'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 61 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 72 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* at anchor in fog until about 07:30. Dug one load before fog closed back in causing dredge to remain anchored for the remainder of the day. Material in boxes was trash with one blue crab and no mud or clay.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/7/96

Loads: 1 - 13

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: overcast with rain then clearing; wind northerly 30 -55 knots; seas 3 - 6'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 59° F

Below Mid-Depth: 70° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material is silty mud and clay. Clayballs pile up in the boxes following most loads, even after clean water is pumped through the landers to clear the boxes of clay before they are inspected. Observers remove the leftover clay by hand. Other than clay, trash and fishing debris are the predominant items retained by the screening. Biological specimens retained include blue crabs, spider crabs, a 4.5' black drum, an 18" catfish, 5 Atlantic cutlassfish, moonsnails, whelk egg cases, oyster shells, a giant eastern murex shell, and algae.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/8/96

Loads: 1 - 9

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: clear to partly cloudy; northerly wind 40 knots dropping to 15-20; seas 3-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 58° F

Below Mid-Depth: 68° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material continues to be silty mud with some clay. Clayballs were present most loads, and clay was packed in the screens after load #6. Trash was abundant in the boxes following some loads. Biological specimens found in the boxes today were blue crabs, 4 Atlantic cutlassfish, moonsnails, a giant eastern murex shell, and algae.

At 15:30, after load #9, *Wheeler* went to anchor in order to replace worn center dragarm cable.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	In channel at dredge site. Dolphins here seem to remain near the jetties - we have not been seeing them this far out the channel.

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/9/96

Loads: 1 - 17

Area(s) Worked: 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

Weather Conditions: partly cloudy; wind N/NE 10 - 20 knots; seas 1 - 3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 55 - 58° F

Below Mid-Depth: 68° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material was silty mud. No clay in boxes today, and trash accumulation was light. Biological specimens found in the screening included 3 black drums, blue crabs, a live lightening whelk, oyster shells, and a coconut. Digging with center and starboard drags only; port drag has not been used since 3/7.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/10/96

Loads: 1 to 16

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: clear to partly cloudy, NNE to ESE winds 10 to 20 kts, seas 1-3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56 - 57 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 68 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is silty mud with no clay and only light amounts of plastic trash and other debris retained in boxes. Dredging center of channel with center and starboard dragarms; port dragarm has mechanical problems. Blue crabs, oyster shells, 2 Atlantic cutlassfish and one southern flounder were retained by screening.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 3/4/96 - 3/10/96

Loads: total of 81

Range of Water Temperature- Surface: 12 - 16° C

Below Mid-Depth: 20 - 22° C

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + 000 to 18 + 000

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

#### Comments:

Dredged material at the beginning of the week was silty mud with occasionally heavy accumulations of clay in the boxes. Abundant trash and debris were present most loads. Late in the week, on 3/9 and 3/10, the *Wheeler* moved from the edge of the channel where it had been dredging, into the center. Then the material found in the boxes was much reduced: light amounts of plastic trash and no clay.

Biological specimens included blue and spider crabs, whelks, oyster shells, moonsnails, 2 giant eastern murex snails, 12 Atlantic cutlassfish, a 4.5' black drum, an 18" catfish, a southern flounder, and algae.

Water temperatures increased to 16° C at the surface by the middle of the week but then fell back to around 13° C after a cold front passed through on 3/6.

Only one dolphin sighting was made during bridge watches this week - the dredge has moved further from the jetties where the dolphins were seen previously.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
<i>T. truncatus</i>	1	1	In channel at dredge site

Observers On Duty: Paula Olson, Doug Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/11/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: na

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* left Sabine Pass in early AM and arrived at Galveston dock about 07:00 to change crews and take on supplies. Observers on standby.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey



## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/12/96

Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: na

Weather Conditions: na

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: na

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

*Wheeler* at Galveston dock during the day taking on supplies, changing crews, and repairing crane. *Wheeler* begins transit back to Sabine Pass at 20:00, and will resume dredging there tomorrow in early AM. Observers on standby.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/13/96

Loads: 1 - 10

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: clear to hazy, S to SE winds 5 to 15 kts, seas 2-3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 56 - 59 ° F      Below Mid-Depth: 68 - 71 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Material is silty mud with little or no clay. A small amount of trash is collected every load. Blue and spider crabs, oyster shells, unidentified bivalves, algae, and 2 juvenile (4") red drum were found in the boxes. Mechanical repairs slowed dredging in the morning and early afternoon.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/14/96

Loads: 1 to 14

Area(s) Worked: stations 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: cloudy/hazy, E to SE winds 10 to 15 kts, seas 1-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 58 - 59 ° F

Below Mid-Depth: 68 - 70 ° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Plastic and metal trash is predominant material in boxes, with occasional silty mud. Blue crabs, bone, oyster shells, an unidentified 6" eel, and the posterior half of a black drum were also found in the boxes.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Olson, D. Kinzey

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/15/96

Loads: 1 - 6

Area(s) Worked: 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: overcast & foggy; wind SE 10 - 15 knots; seas 1 - 4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: 59 - 60° F

Below Mid-Depth: 72° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

During load #2, the dredge strayed outside the channel which filled the boxes with oyster shells and sediment the consistency of wet cement. The landers were then flushed with clean water to remove the material. Otherwise, the dredged material was silty mud. Trash and debris were the predominant items found in the boxes. Biological specimens retained included blue crabs, oyster shells, and a large whelk shell. Dredging was halted three times today because of fog.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *Wheeler* : Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

### DAILY REPORT

Date: 3/16/96

Loads: 1 - 2

Area(s) Worked: 9 + <sup>000</sup> to 18 + <sup>000</sup>

Weather Conditions: foggy; wind SSE 10 -15 knots; seas 1 - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature- Surface: na

Below Mid-Depth: 73° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? No**

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredged material was silty mud. Very little material found in boxes: a light amount of trash and one blue crab. Fog halted dredging until 21:00.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	No. of Sightings	No. of Animals	Comments
none			

Observer(s) On Duty: D. Kinzey, P. Olson, J. Kelly

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 17 / 96 Loads: 1 - 6

Area(s) Worked: 9+000 to 18+000

Weather Conditions: clear to partly cloudy & fog, ENE - W wind 5-15 knots, seas 1-3

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 61 deg. F Below Mid-Depth 72 deg. F

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material dredged was silty  
mud. Material in boxes was comprised of small amounts of trash and nine  
blue crab (three of which were pregnant females). Dredging was stopped  
at 2050 due to heavy fog.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>surfaced once at 29.36N and 93.48W</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Kelly, P. Westerman

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Dates: 3 / 11 / 96 - 3 / 17 / 96 Loads: 38 total

Area(s) Worked: stations 9+000 to 18+000

Comments: Dredged material was silty mud and a very minimal amount of clay.  
With every load, there was an accumulation of trash and debris (wood, metal,  
plastics, and nylon material) which was removed by hand.

Biological specimens retained in the screens this week include blue crab, oyster shells, unidentified eel, whole and parts of black drum, red drum, and unidentified bivalves.

Both the mid-depth and surface temperatures increased slightly during this reporting period.

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>located 29.36N and 93.48W</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Observers On Duty: Paula Olson, Doug Kinzey, Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 18 / 96 Loads: 1 - 5

Area(s) Worked: 9+000 to 18+000

Weather Conditions: clear to partly cloudy, W-NW wind 20 - 50 knots, seas 2 - 4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16 deg. C Below Mid-Depth 16 deg. C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material dredged was silty mud. Biological specimens include approximately 48 blue crab, one catfish, one flounder, and a drum. Other materials were trash and debris such as wood, fishing nets, plastics, and metal.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>near buoy #9</u>
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>end of cut</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Kelly, P. Westerman



Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Date: 3 / 19 / 96      Loads: 1 - 12

Area(s) Worked: 9+000 to 18+000

Weather Conditions: clear, W - NW wind 6 - 25 knots, seas 1 - 4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16 deg. C Below Mid-Depth 18 deg. C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No xx

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material was mainly  
silty mud with only a few clayballs. All three dragarms were  
cleaned today. Roughly 45 blue crab, the head of a red drum,  
the tail of a drum were the species caught in the screens. There  
were trash and debris as well.

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
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Observer(s) On Duty: J. Kelly, P. Westerman

# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 20 / 96 Loads: 1-13

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+000 to 14+000

Weather Conditions: clear, winds N-NW 10-35 knots, seas 3-5'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16°C Below Mid-Depth 18°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material being dredged  
is a fine silty material mixed with clayballs and large amounts of  
trash, especially when digging in a new area. Blue crab and crabnets  
are common in almost every load. Other debris includes rope, wire,  
fishing nets, boat parts, and large quantities of plastic. The port  
drag was not used during the second half of the day.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T.truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>seen close to the jetties</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: P. Westerman, J. Kelly

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 21 / 96 Loads: 1-16

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+000 to 14+000

Weather Conditions: clear, S-NW winds 5-25 knots, seas 2-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16°C Below Mid-Depth 17°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No xx

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material  
continues to be silty mud with some clay. Trash, mostly consisting  
of plastic, is the predominant material caught in the screens.  
Biological specimens include 36 blue crab and three drum. In 5  
of the 16 loads, the port dragarm was not used.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>none</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Kelly, P. Westerman

# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 22 / 96 Loads: 1-12

Area(s) Worked: Stations 1+800 to 9+000

Weather Conditions: clear, winds S-SE 10-20 knots, seas 1-3

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 15.5°C Below Mid-Depth 16°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material continues to  
be the same soupy dark clay mixed with clayballs. Large amounts of  
plastic are a constant in every load. Other debris includes wire cable,  
whelks, metal scrap, wood, and always a few blue crab.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
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_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

Observer(s) On Duty: \_\_\_\_\_

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 23 / 96 Loads: 1-16

Area(s) Worked: 9+000 to 18+000

Weather Conditions: clear to partly cloudy, SSE to E wind 5-25 knots, seas 1-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16°C Below Mid-Depth 15.5°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material is silty mud with some loads having exceptionally large amounts of clay.

The loads with clay deposits are washed for a more thorough screen inspection. Biological specimens consists of a posterior half of a drum, oyster shells, and blue crab. Trash and other debris are the most frequent material found in the screens.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>none</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Kelly, P. Westerman

## USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Observer(s) On Duty: \_\_\_\_\_

## USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Dates: 3 / 18 / 96 - 3 / 24 / 96 Loads: 88 total

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 15.5°C - 16°C Below Mid-Depth 15.5°C - 18°C

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+000 to 14+000 and 9+000 to 18+000

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species?** Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No XX

Comments: Dredged material is a silty clay with some clayballs. The accum-  
ulation of clay and trash has been very slight this week, but the  
total number of crabs taken is up. Several hundred blue crab have  
been found often alive or stunned. Drum, flounder, and catfish are  
also seen. Otherwise its the usual mixture of cloth, fishing nets,  
wood, metal scrap, shell and large amounts of plastic.

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observers On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

## USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Observer(s) On Duty: \_\_\_\_\_



**ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

**DAILY REPORT**Date: 3 / 26 / 96 Loads: noneArea(s) Worked: NAWeather Conditions: NARange of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface NA Below Mid-Depth NACondition of all screening apparatus: excellentAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Due to high winds fuel  
barge was unable to come alongside to deliver fuel, so refueling  
was set for the next morning. The ship remained at the dock taking  
on supplies, changing crews and doing repairs. Observers on standby.

**Bridge Watch Summary**

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

## USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Date: 3 / 27 / 96 Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: NA

Weather Conditions: NA

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface NA Below Mid-Depth NA

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): The ship took on fuel in the morning and left the dock 16:00. The ship reached Sabine Pass just before midnight.

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 28 / 96 Loads: 1-15

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+000-18+000

Weather Conditions: clear to cloudy, winds NNW-S 5-15 knots, seas 1-2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16.5°C Below Mid-Depth 16.5°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material dredged is  
silty mud with no clay. Biological specimens caught in the screens are  
5 catfish, a snail, blue crab, two posterior halves of drum, a whole  
drum, and two spider crabs. Trash consisting of plastic, cloth, rope,  
wood, and metal continue to be the primary items in the screens.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>none</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 29 / 96 Loads: 1-14

Area(s) Worked: Stations 9+000 - 18+000

Weather Conditions: clear to rain/fog; winds E to S 5-15 knots; seas 1-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16°C Below Mid-Depth 16°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material is silty  
mud with two loads having a very high content of clay. All four  
boxes were cleaned with a knife to clear the accumulated debris.  
Also, the starboard and port dragheads were cleaned today.  
Biological specimens retained in the screening were blue crabs,  
spider crabs, drum, catfish, and a snail. Every load contains  
trash-plastic, fishing gear, an assortment of metal parts, and  
rubber.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>500 M SE of red buoy #28</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 30 / 96 Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: none

Weather Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16.5°C Below Mid-Depth 17°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No xx

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredge Wheeler  
anchored in fog the entire day, no dredging.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>none</u>	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

DAILY REPORT

Date: 3 / 31 / 96 Loads: 1-8

Area(s) Worked: 0+000 to 9+000 and 0+000 to 0+600

Weather Conditions: clear, winds NW 10-15 knots, seas 2-3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 17°C Below Mid-Depth 17.5°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): The Wheeler started  
digging on the inside of the jetties in an area particularly heavy  
with debris from many sources. Rocks and decayed sealife were prevalent  
along with fishing gear and all sorts of trash. Blue crabs were found  
in large numbers as were Atlantic Cutlassfish. The seawater temperature  
has been slowly rising.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tt</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>seen by buoy # 17 and 18</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

Observer(s) On Duty:

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 3 / 25 / 96 - 3 / 31 / 96

Loads: Total of 37

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 16-17°C Below Mid-Depth 16-17.5°C

Area(s) Worked: 0+000 to 9+000; 0+000 to 0+600; 9+000 to 18+000

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments: Dredged material was silty mud with two loads having vast  
deposits of clay. The majority of digging occurred in relatively new  
areas producing much of the accumulated trash.

Biological specimens included blue and spider crabs, Atlantic  
cutlassfish, drum, catfish, whelks, and snails.

March 25 thru March 27, Wheeler was at the USACE dock in Galveston  
for supplies and crew change. The expected departure back to Sabine Pass  
was 3/26. But because of high winds, the refueling barge could not deliver  
fuel until 3/27. Dredging resumed in Sabine Pass at 0200 on 3/28.

Water surface temperature increased slightly during the week however,  
below mid-depth temperature has remained relatively unchanged compared  
to the previous week.

There was no dredging on 3/30 due to fog.

## Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>500 m. SE of red buoy #28</u>
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>seen near buoy #17 and #18</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observers On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

**ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

**DAILY REPORT**Date: 4 / 1 / 96 Loads: 1-12Area(s) Worked: stations 0+000 to 0+600; 0+000 to 0+900; 18+000 to 25+000Weather Conditions: clear, winds NW to NE 5-30 knots, seas 1-3'Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 17.5-18°C Below Mid-Depth 17.5-18°CCondition of all screening apparatus: excellentAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material was silty  
mud with only one load having much clay. A new area was dredged  
and did not have any clay or much trash. The loads in the old area  
still had a high enough content of trash, that in order to dispose  
of it, the doors in the cages had to be opened after virtually  
every dump. Biological specimens were blue crab, drum, whelks,  
and a hagfish. No biological specimens in the new area.

**Bridge Watch Summary**

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>10 m. SE of red buoy #18</u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>                  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>                  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>                  </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman



**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORTDate: 4 / 2 / 96 Loads: 1-18Area(s) Worked: stations 18+000 to 25+000Weather Conditions: clear, winds NE 10-12 knots, seas 1-3'Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 18°C Below Mid-Depth 18°CCondition of all screening apparatus: excellentAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Wheeler moved to a new area  
closer to the dumpsite. The amount of debris picked up has been  
drastically reduced and contains much more vegetative material. Blue  
crab, spider crab, and whelks have been found in a majority of the  
loads. The sea temperature has reached 18°C at the surface and below  
mid-depth for the first time.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORTDate: 4 / 3 / 96 Loads: 1-16Area(s) Worked: stations 18+000 to 25+000Weather Conditions: partly cloudy, winds SE 10-12 knots, seas 1-2'Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 18°C Below Mid-Depth 18°CCondition of all screening apparatus: excellentAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): The dredged material  
in this new area is silty mud with no clay content. Trash continues  
to be very low surpassed by biological specimens in each load.

Biological specimens consists of blue crab, a flounder, and sea-  
grass.

Loads 1-7 had the use of all three dragarms while loads 8-16  
used only the center dragarm.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>
<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>	<u>                    </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 4 / 96 Loads: 1-15

Area(s) Worked: 18+000 to 25+000, 0+600 to 0+000

Weather Conditions: overcast-clear, winds ENE to S 5-12 knots, seas 1-2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 17.5-18°C Below Mid-Depth 17.5-18°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Material dredged continues  
to be a fine silty mud mixed with clayballs and trash. The amount of  
garbage found is considerably less than is found further inshore.  
Blue crab, oyster shells, whelks and spider crab are commonly found  
among the usual assortment of debris. The water temperature has hit  
18°C four days in row.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
---------	----------------	--------------	----------

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

DAILY REPORTDate: 4 / 5 / 96 Loads: 1-14Area(s) Worked: stations 18+000 to 25+000Weather Conditions: cloudy to overcast/rain, wind SE-N 10-35 knots, seas 1-5'Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 18.5°C Below Mid-Depth 19°CCondition of all screening apparatus: excellentAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XX

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material was silty mud with an insignificant amount of clay. Trash content continued to remain low compared to that of the other digging sites. It consisted of rope, plastic, cloth, fiberglass, and other debris. Biological specimens were blue and spider crabs and a drum.

Inside the jetties, the surface water temperature was 18.5°C and 19°C mid-depth however, this was recorded prior to the cold front that came during the final hours of April 5.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>T. truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>200 m. SE of red buoy #30</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 6 / 96 Loads: 1-16

Area(s) Worked: stations 18+000 to 25+000

Weather Conditions: overcast/rain to clear, wind NW-NE 5-50 knots, seas 1-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 17.5°C Below Mid-Depth 17°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No xx

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredging material  
continued to be silty mud with no clay. There was only a small  
amount of trash which consisted of the usual; plastic, cloth, wood,  
fishing nets, and metal scrap. Biological specimens were spider  
and blue crabs, oyster shells, drum, and Atlantic cutlassfish.

All screens were cleaned thoroughly with a knife to rid the  
interwoven rope, plastic, and cable.

There were dangerous wind gusts reaching 50 knots during loads  
1-7 (0001-1000).

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>none</u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

## ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 7 / 96 Loads: 1-18

Area(s) Worked: Stations 18+000 to 25+000

Weather Conditions: clear, winds ESE 5-10 knots, seas 1-2

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 17°C Below Mid-Depth 17°C

Condition of all screening apparatus: excellent

**Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species?** Yes ☐ No ☒

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): Dredged material was a silty clay mixed with some clayballs. Plastics, metal scrap, wood, and cloth were the most commonly found items. Spider crabs, blue crabs and whelks were the only biological samples taken. The sea temperature dropped to 17°C after a cold front moved through the area.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observer(s) On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

## USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

Observers On Duty: Jim Kelly, Peter Westerman

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 8 / 96 Loads: none

Area(s) Worked: N/A

Weather Conditions: N/A

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface N/A Below Mid-Depth N/A

Condition of all screening apparatus: Excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

The vessel left Sabine Pass at midnight and arrived at Galveston dock about 07:00 to take on supplies and change crews. M. Piercy and J. Daly arrived at 15:30 for observer crew change.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY



# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 9 / 96 Loads: NONE

Area(s) Worked: N/A

Weather Conditions: N/A

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface N/A Below Mid-Depth N/A

Condition of all screening apparatus: EXCELLENT

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Vessel took on supplies and departed Galveston dock  
at 16:30. Reached dredge site at roughly 23:30.  
Dredging was delayed due to a jammed trunion cable  
on the port side.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 10 / 96 Loads: 1-16

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000, 32+000 → 35+000

Weather Conditions: sky = clear → overcast, wind = 8 → 28 knots, NE → ESE

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface \* see note Below Mid-Depth 61°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: all screening is in excellent condition. Stainless steel seems to truly resist rust!

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No  POSSIBLY TURTLE BONE X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Material being dredged consisted of: mud, clay, trash: plastics, cans, cloth, broom head, fishing line, shrimp net, hose, copper piping, rope, floats, electrical wire, automotive parts, hard hat.

Biological specimens consisted of whelks, oysters, clams, whelk egg cases, spider crabs, Blue crabs, crawdad, sawtoothed penshell, moon snail, small unidentified bivalves, large unidentified gastropod.

One bone was found in starboard fore cage that may be a turtle bone. It is being saved for positive identification. Appears to be old (not fresh)

\* Engineers feel that this thermometer is not accurate. Readings were 77°F at 02:50 and 77°F at 13:25.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tursiops truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>20' off starboard bow (heading toward bow)</u>
<u>Northern Gannet</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>in channel (fly by's)</u>

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

→ Swells forming

Date: 4 / 11 / 96

Loads: 1-19

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000

Weather Conditions: Sky = pt cloudy → clear → hazy → pt cloudy front comm in WIND = 10 → 22 knots  
S, SE → ESE

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 77° Below Mid-Depth see note

Condition of all screening apparatus: Screening is in excellent condition - had trouble  
with starboard fore door - was jammed on & off but now fixed -

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Material dredged - consisted of: mud w/ clumps of clay Trash - Autoparts, filters  
fan belts, hard hat, sunglasses, rope material, fishing line, lots of plastic bags  
electrical wire, bricks - wood, boat horn, 19 cable line,

Biological specimens - consisted of 19 whelks, whelk egg cases, spider crabs,  
blue crabs, (4-6" fish up to 6 at one time only), oysters, periwinkles, moon snail, worms.  
(unidentified)

Most material collected in cages was trash - only small % of biological specimens -

\* - thermometer unavailable

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Common Loon</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>off port side</u>
<u>Common Yellowthroat</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1 <del>15</del></u>	<u>♂ on board main deck</u>

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Vally M. Piercy

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 12 / 96 Loads: 1-12

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000

Weather Conditions: sky = overcast → partly cloudy, wind = 10-30 knots E → SE, seas = 3-6'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 79°F Below Mid-Depth 62°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: all screening is in excellent condition

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Material being dredged consists of: mud, clay, trash, plastics, cloth, fishing line, tin, rocks, net, float, tire, brick, plexiglass, rope, wire and cable.

Biological Specimens being dredged were: whelks, wood, whelk egg cases, penshells, moon snails, spider crabs, oysters, cow femur, Blue crab (with eggs).

Dredge Wheeler made 2 trips into jettys to pick up and drop off a radar repair man. Later in the evening (20:25) the hydraulics for 1 set of hopper doors needed to be repaired. Repairs were completed (22:55).

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2	4	outside W jetty
White pelicans	2	75	fishing in & out of jettys
Brown pelicans	2	25	standing on rock on E jetty
Sooty Terns	2	51	fishing on E+W jettys
Caspian Terns	1	30	fishing inside jettys
Sanderling	1	1	Flew across bow of Wheeler
Observer(s) On Duty:	M. PIERCY, J. DALY		
Great Egret	81	8	Flock flew E → W across jettys
			Just outside end of E jetty

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 13 / 96

Loads: 1-7

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000, 25+000 → 32+000

Weather Conditions: Sky = Clear → Fog → Sunny Hazy → Fog, WIND = 22 knots - 8 knots SE, E, S, SW  
SEAS = 4' high - 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 79°F Below Mid-Depth 68°

Condition of all screening apparatus: all screening in excellent condition

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

- Material dredged consisted of: Mud, clay, trash, plastic bags, aluminum pot, cans, 1 1/2" steel eyebolt, sheet metal, cloth, wood, fishing nets, line, tire parts

- Biological specimens that were dredged consisted of: Blue crab, 2 catfish skulls, whelks, Blue crab eggs, oysters, moon snail.

\* All Blue crabs screened so far have had eggs & only one truly alive.

- Cages were mostly clear - only small amount of material gathered in cages

- Only small percentage of material dredged was biological - mostly trash

First 4 loads, only the center draghead was in operation - had to make 2 cuts per dump load.

Fog set in around 05:00, Ship Anchored till 11:30, Dredging started 11:55  
in operation till 16:00 when fog returned. Dredge Anchored after  
17:00 ~ Operations continued at 23:45

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	1	3	In end of channel

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Daly, M. Piercy

# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 14 / 96 Loads: 1-6

Area(s) Worked: 25+000 → 18+000, 32+000 → 25+000

Weather Conditions: fog → overcast → clear, wind = 4-18 knots SE → SW, seas = 1-3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 78°F Below Mid-Depth 64°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Excellent

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Materials being dredged were mud, clay, plastics, fishing line,  
trash, rope, blanket, cloth, plastic bucket,

Biological specimens retained in screening were Blue Crab (more than  
usual, many w/ eggs, some very small individuals = Breeding season), whelk egg  
cases, whelks, scallops, oysters, sawtooth pen shells, algae,

Dredge Wheeler anchored in fog between 0140 and 1500.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4 / 8 / 96 - 4 / 14 / 96

Loads: 62

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 22-23°C Below Mid-Depth 14-18°C

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000, 32+000 → 35+000, 25+000 → 18+000

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No        Possibly X \*

Comments: \* One bone found in starboard forelander may be turtle bone. It is being saved for positive identification. (4/10/96). It was an old bone.

All screening is in excellent condition. Dredge Wheeler anchored in fog for approximately 25 hours this week.

Materials dredged this week were mostly ~~the~~ mud, clay, plastics, trash fishing line, cloth, metal debris, tire parts, floats, rope, wire, cable bricks, hard hat, nets, blanket, rocks.

Biological specimens that were retained by screening were Blue Crabs (many with eggs, some very small = breeding season), whelks, whelk egg cases, oysters, moon snails, worms, algae, bones (only one possible sea turtle bone).

## Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tursiops truncatus</u> <u>(Bottlenose dolphins)</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>near end of jetties and in channel</u>

Observers On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 15 / 96

Loads: ~~1-17~~ 1-17

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000 25+000 → 18+000 30+000 → 25+000

Weather Conditions: Sky = Clear → Wind = 20 knots → 40 knots → 18 knots gusty at times

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 81°F Below Mid-Depth 51°F - 62°F SEAS - 2' - 4' - 6'

Condition of all screening apparatus: Excellent   
 ↳ may have been too deep

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

- Materials being dredged consisted of: Lots of Mud, clay clumps, wood, Trash, plastics, fishing line, rubber boots, block tackle, aluminium cans, ~~Asphalt~~ bricks (Asbestos), Asphalt, copper wire, cloth, rope

\* Load #17 had a very strong chemical smell - toxic smell -

\* 3 nights ago April 12 - I & J. Daly developed strong rash on chin from mud splash -   
 still have the rash

Biological specimens being dredged consisted of: Several Blue Crab w/ w/ eggs, spider crabs, whelk eggs, 2 sm cat fish, oysters, moon snails, a large

\* & a 3' long shark - speculation on identity is Atlantic sharp nose - (Rhizoprionodon terraenovae) \* a photo was taken of shark -

- shark was collected in starboard Aft Cage & was dead when found -

- also found unidentified lg scapula bone & sm unidentified - vertebrae bone -

There appears to be more mud collecting ~~off~~ in cages, later ~~the~~ loads had a high percentage -

\* Strong north wind brought several shore birds

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Chimney Swift	3	0810	flying next to vessel
Kentucky Warbler	1	0900	
Least Bittern	1	1500	♂ on lower deck
Common Loon	1	1735	

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Daly, M. Piercy



DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 16 / 96 Loads: 10

Area(s) Worked: 40+000 → 32+000

Weather Conditions: sky = clear, wind = 10-20 knots

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface \_\_\_\_\_ Below Mid-Depth 54-58°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard aft cage has one section of wall falling out. It has been temporarily re-inforced. All other cages are in excellent condition

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

This is a new section which some say hasn't been dredged in over ten years. The material being dredged is hard solid clay that has been badly jamming up in the cages. The dragfenders have been working hard trying to adjust their approach and minimize the volume of clay left in the cages, but still there is a considerable amount.

Very little biological specimens are being retained by screening. Wood, whelk eggs, blue crabs, spotted sea trout, small drum, 1 spotted sea trout, 1, 2 5lb Sand drum, lots of worms, have been retained.

A six foot crack in the Hopper deck starboard distribution pipe was discovered around 16:15 and was welded. The repair seems to be holding.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Blue grey Gnatcatcher</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>on upper bridge deck, looking chipper.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM  
Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway  
USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 17 / 96 Loads: 1-9

Area(s) Worked: 30+000 → 42+000, 32+000 → 40+000

Weather Conditions: Sky = Clear + pt cloudy, Wind = 12 knots - 26 knots, Seas 2-3'

\* Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 81° Below Mid-Depth 62° F

Condition of all screening apparatus: - screening on starboard aft was repaired -  
- aft pannel wall had ~~loose~~ loose end - bolt came loose. Pannel was repaired  
with metal strapping -

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

< This is a new section that hasn't been dredged in yrs - The material being dredged is hard solid clay. The drag tenders have been working ways to minimize clay volume. After fifth load a clay problem is less, condition back to normal.

Materials being dredged were mostly hard solid clay, small amount of trash - fishing line, nets, plastics, rubber boot, & steel eye bolt.

Biological specimens that remained in the screens were - Blue crabs, worms, anglewing shells, oysters, whelks, catfish

All six lander flaps in distribution pipes were cleaned out in attempt to aid in the current back up problem with clay.

\* 81° temp - this temp was taken from engine room - appears to be inaccurate

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Grey Catbird</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0900</u>	<u>on lower deck 1.</u>
<u>Cattle Egret</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0910</u>	<u>on lower deck</u>

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Daly / M. Piercy

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

DAILY REPORTDate: 4 / 18 / 96 Loads: 1-16Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 40+000Weather Conditions: sky = overcast, p/c, fog, wind = 12-28 knots S→SE, seas = 2-4'Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface \_\_\_\_\_ Below Mid-Depth 60-70°FCondition of all screening apparatus: Port forward cage door eyehook broke off and system was replaced with cable and toggle. Starboard Aft cage wall remains temporarily patched. All other screening is in good condition.Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Materials being dredged has been clay (mostly claballs) and clay remaining in caging has been much less abundant compared to the previous 3 days). Other materials being dredged were, trash, cable, shrimp net, metal scraps, rocks, cloth, rope, plastics, copper tubing, steel u bolt, chain links, onion bag, tin, floor mat, incinerated plastic.

Biological specimens being retained by screening are Blue Crabs, whelks, oysters, worms, (lots of worms in this section), angel wing shells, spider crab, and large (5") clams.

A discussion between observers and mates addressed possibility of checking screening Before landers are flushed to minimize loss of turtle parts through flushing. One mate watch felt uncomfortable with changes to procedure, ~~wasn't~~ but it is food for thought. It ~~is~~ seems to make sense. We will suggest it to those "higher ups".

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Little Blue Heron	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>flying SE off bow</u>
Meadowlark	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>on starboard rail of vessel.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCEY, J. DALY

**ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM**Dredge **WHEELER** / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

**DAILY REPORT**Date: 4 / 19 / 1996 Loads: 1-6Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 40+000Weather Conditions: pt fog → overcast → pt fog, WIND = 4-24 knots SE, SEAS = 1-2'Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 81°F Below Mid-Depth 68°FCondition of all screening apparatus: starboard 9ft cage wall remains temporarily strapped. All other screening appears to be in good conditionAre there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No XComments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):       

- ~ Material remaining in cages mostly is hard packed clay. The amount of clay in each load is intermittent. Sometimes it is hard packed in the cages. To lessen the problem in the 9ft traps were sometimes closed.
- With so much clay there has been very little trash or biological material collecting in cages. The trash that was collected consisted of: plastic bucket, metal straps, plastic, aluminum cans, rope & netting - scrap wood
- ~ Biological Specimens remaining in screening are: Blue crabs, worms, whelks, whelk egg cases, ~~the~~ polychaete worms, angle wing shells, & spider crab

Anchored in fog from 00:00 - 12:00**Bridge Watch Summary**

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Red-billed Grebe	1		dead on bridge. (flew into winds)
Turquoise Kingfisher	1	1	in channel 12:30
"	1	2	East of channel <del>06:35</del> 15:35
"	1	3	port side of bow in channel 17:00

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Daly, M. Rercal

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 20 / 96 Loads: 1-15

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 40+000 , 0+000 → 6+000

Weather Conditions: overcast → hazy, wind = 10-28 knots, SE → SSE, seas = 1-3'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface \_\_\_\_\_ Below Mid-Depth 67°F → 72°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard aft cage wall will remain temporarily attached until Dredge Wheeler leaves this channel.  
All other cages are in excellent condition

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Possibly \* possible turtle box

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Materials being dredged in Section 32+000 → 40+000 consist mostly of clay (clay balls), gravelly clay, mud, rocks, cloth, scrap metal, plastics, aluminum can, monofilament line, rope, and mud.

Biological specimens retained by screening in this area have been spider crab, blue crabs, worms, polychaete worms, scallops, oysters, angel wing shells, whelk eggs, large clams (4"), wood, unidentified

\* fauna bone (will save for positive identification).

Materials being dredged in section ~~0+000~~ 0+000 → 6+000 is mostly soft clay that flushes easily through caging and mud.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Warbling vireo</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>on top of boom in healthy condition</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge **WHEELER** / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 21 / 96 Loads: 1-12

Area(s) Worked: 0+000 → 76+000

Weather Conditions: Foggy → clear → hazy → clear, Wind 10-40 knots SE, Seas 2'-5'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 86°? Below Mid-Depth (70° - unable to go below mid depth - due to wind current)  
← possibly inaccurate from engine room

Condition of all screening apparatus:

As noted in earlier reports - starboard aft cage will remain temporarily attached until we can properly weld it ashore.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

A new section was dredged (section 0+000 → 6+000) - This section starting from the jetty consisted mostly of soft clay. This clay was much easier on whole crew. Cages were mostly clear of clay and debris.

- Materials being dredged were a small amount of trash - consisting of: 19 oil filters, plastic buckets, plastic bottles, bags, rope, fishing line, netting, leather pocketbook, fiberglass pieces, glass bottle, soda cans, cloth, wood, asphalt, rocks, cable, ~~steel~~ drop light, & shoe sole & (the same coffee can that returned 4 times.)

- Biological materials remaining in cages were: sm 5<sup>#</sup> drum fish, half mangled unidentified fish with scales - (1/2 of fish was 2' long), fish skull, whelks, oysters, blue crab lg & small, worms, whelk egg cases, flounder, moon snail, algae slipper limpet,

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>(Tursiops truncatus)</u> <u>Bottlenose dolphin</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>(2) at 07:45 In channel / (2) at 12:15 red buoy #18</u>
<u>Lesser Scaup</u>	<u>~40</u>	<u>0820</u>	<u>rafting W of W Jetty</u>
<u>Drum fish</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>10:30 - dead on surface w/ immature herring gull fed on it</u>
<u>Rough Wing Swallow</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>12:45</u>
<u>Least Bittern</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0200 - inside jetty's -</u>
Observer(s) On Duty: <u>J. Daly / M. Piercy</u>			

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4 / 15 / 96 - 4 / 21 / 96

Loads: 85

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 25°C → 27°C

Below Mid-Depth 12°C → 19°C

Area(s) Worked: 32+000 → 25+000, 25+000 → 18+000, 30+000 → 25+000

40+000 → 32+000, 32+000 → 40+000, 0+000 → 6+000

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No possibly x

Comments: \* Two unidentified scapula bones - , one found 4/20/96 in port fore lander one larger scapula bone found 4/15/96. Both Bones are saved for positive identification.

Due to emense clay problems from dredging section 32+000 → 40+000 starboard aft cage wall remains temporarily attached until proper welding can take place ashore.

Materials dredged in section 32+000 → 40+000 caused delay & backup problems in cages & on deck. It appears that this section has not been dredged in over ten years. The material that was dredged was hard solid clay mixed with polychaete worms & angelwing shells. Very little biological specimens were retained by screening. Cumulatively biological specimens that were retained by screening were: Blue crabs w/ without eggs, spider crabs, oysters, moon snails, whelk egg cases, sea trout, 2 small drum fish, cat fish, one half of a unidentified fish w/ ~~scale~~ scales, (tommy to get positive id) \* 3' long shark, flounder, 19 5" clams, algae & shipper limpet.

Trash that was collected in screening consisted of: plastics, auto parts, plastic bags, boots, pocketbook, copper wire, cable wire, aluminum cans, scrap metal, 19 oil filters, rubber mats, cloth, rope, fishing line, fishing nets, block & tackle, 19 steel eye bolt, chain links, & fiberglass. \* Note Load #17 4/15/96 Had a very strong chemicals smell almost toxic smelling - (4/12/96 Observer J. Daly developed rash on neck from mud splash - rash still remains.

\* note

→ \* a photo was taken of shark - found in starboard aft cage dead - possible id is (Atlantic Sharp nose)

### Bridge Watch Summary

(Rhizoprionodon terraenovae)

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tursiops truncatus</u> (Bottle nose dolphin)	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>In channel &amp; near end of kettys</u>

\* note - Question on flushing procedure was raised: Should observers check screens before Tenders are flushed to minimize possible loss of turtle parts.

Observers On Duty: J. Daly / M. Percy

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 22 / 96 Loads: NONE

Area(s) Worked: N/A

Weather Conditions: N/A

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface N/A Below Mid-Depth N/A

Condition of all screening apparatus: Forward port hatch will not close properly,  
needs repair. Starboard aft cage wall temporarily attached.  
All other screening is in excellent condition.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredge Wheeler left Sabine Pass at 22:30 and arrived at  
Galveston Dock at 08:00. High winds made the going slow.  
All screening was thoroughly cleaned and the vessel took on  
supplies, changed crews and performed repairs. Observers on  
standby.

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tursiops truncatus</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>swimming next to surfers on Galveston Beach.</u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY



# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 23 / 96 Loads: NONE

Area(s) Worked: N/A

Weather Conditions: N/A

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface N/A Below Mid-Depth N/A

Condition of all screening apparatus: Forward port hatch needs repair. Starboard aft cage wall is temporarily attached. All other screening is in excellent condition.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes        No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Dredge Wheeler departed Galveston dock at 17:00  
and reached Sabine Pass at 01:30. Observers on Standby

## Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 24 / 96

Loads: 1-17

Area(s) Worked: 18+000 → 26+000 34+000 → 26+000, 25+000 → 32+000

Weather Conditions: Sky - Clear, Wind = 26-6 knots, E, NE → E → SE Seqs 2'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 86° - 87½° Below Mid-Depth 64° → 62° → 64°

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard aft case wall still remains temporarily attached. Starboard Gft hatch handle will not close all the way. Forward port hatch still will not close properly.

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.):

Materials being dredged in Section 18+000 → 26+000 had mostly trash & for the most part cases were clean - Trash consisted of: plastic wood scraps, plastic pipe, rope, fiberglass pieces, fishing nets, steel eye beam & cloth. Biological specimens remaining in cages were: Blue crab with in with out eggs - 1 lg, 2' macreral fish, whelk 19 & sm, whelk egg cases, algae, moon snails ~~rocks~~

Section 34+000 → 26+000 consisted of hard packed clay with worming whelk whelk egg cases & a small amount of trash. (asphalt, rope, cloth & plastic)

Section 25+000 → 32+000 has been mostly clear - Trash consisted of: ½ inch steel link, rope, wood cap, cloth, fishing net, fishing line, tire rubber. Biological specimens remaining in cages were - Blue crab, whelk & whelk egg cases

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
Turrops truncatus	1	2	17:04 close to bow by channel buoy 3
Greenbacked heron	2	1	- on dredge at 1200 & 1800

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Daly / M. Piers

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 25 / 96 Loads: 1-19

Area(s) Worked: 25+000 → 34+000, 0+00 → 09+000

Weather Conditions: sky = clear → mostly cloudy, wind = 16-30 knots NSE → SSW, seas = 2-5'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface \_\_\_\_\_ Below Mid-Depth 64°F → 66°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Forward port hatch is difficult at best to secure.  
Starboard Aft cage wall is temporarily secured and is bowing outward.  
All other caging is in excellent condition

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_  
Hyoplastron of sea turtle found in load 9, section 0+000 → 8+000.  
Bone is being saved for species identification.

Material being dredged has been mostly mud, clay, plastics, shrimp net,  
rock, monofilament line, cloth, tire, scrap metal, soda cans, rope,  
asphalt, rubber, tin, copper pipe, onion bag, float

Biological material being retained by screening was: turtle bone,  
dolphin vertebrae, whelks, whelk egg cases, blue crab, moon snails,  
algae, fish parts (probably drum), wood, flounder, Spanish mackerel,

### Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<u>Tursiops truncatus</u>	<u><del>2</del> 1</u>	<u>≈ 6</u>	<u>outside jettys at channel marker 33.</u> <u>1 adult w/ immature.</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: M. PIERCY, J. DALY

# ENDANGERD SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge WHEELER / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## DAILY REPORT

Date: 4 / 26 / 96 Loads: 1-2

Area(s) Worked: 28+000 → 34+000

Weather Conditions: SKY = pt Cloudy WIND = 20-22 knots, S Seas 3-4'

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 86°F Below Mid-Depth 68°F

Condition of all screening apparatus: Starboard qft cage wall still temporarily secured  
Forward port hatch is difficult to close - hinges need repair  
All other casing is in excellent condition

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No X

Comments (type of material being dredged, biological specimens, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

Materials being dredged in these two loads were very little.  
Trash consisted of: wood scraps, plastic, rope, tin can, cloth  
~170 Biological specimens were retained in cages.

## Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Observer(s) On Duty: J. Zaly

# ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge *WHEELER* / Sabine-Neches Waterway

USACE, Galveston District / Winter 1996

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

Dates: 4 / 22 / 96 - 4 / 26 / 96

Loads: 38

Range of H<sub>2</sub>O Temperature: Surface 21°

Below Mid-Depth 15° - 18°

Area(s) Worked: 18+000 → 26+000, 34+000 → 26+000, 25+000 → 32+000, 25+000 → 34+000, 0+000 → 9+000

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? Yes X No     

Comments: Hypoplastron of sea turtle found in load 9, Section 0+000 → 8+000 4/25/96.  
Bone has been saved for species identification.

Materials being dredged in these loads consisted mostly of: mud, clay, plashes, shrimp net, rock, monofilament line, cloth, tire parts, scrap metal, soda cans, rope, asphalt, rubber, tin, copper pipe, steel chain, onion bags, plastic pipe, fiberglass parts, steel eye beam, & rain pants.

Biological Materials dredged were: Blue crab, w/4 with out eggs, 2 spanish Mackerel fish, flounder, fish parts → (prob a drum), whelks, whelk egg cases, ~~atpae~~ moon snails, moon snails, algae, unidentified ~~alg~~ worms in clay, dolphin vertebrae, & turtle bone

## Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Sightings	# of Animals	Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	<u>1</u>	<u>~ 6</u>	<u>outside jets at channel marker 33.</u> <u>1 adult w/ immature</u>

Observers On Duty: J. Paly, M. Percy